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Whitney on Florida.¹ — For the same reason as the preceding we wish to call attention to the plates which accompany this report. They illustrate excellently well some of the peculiar features of the plant associations in Florida. Among these may be mentioned views of (1) high pine land at Ft. Meade, (2) high pine land at Altoona, (3) hammock land at Ft. Meade, (4) border line between scrub and high pine land at Altoona, (5) the characteristic vegetation of the Etonia scrub. Concerning the Etonia scrub, which has been a source of speculation and wonder to every botanist who has seen it, we quote the following :

“The great Etonia scrub formation was examined at Altoona. It is an impressive sight to stand at the border line between the scrub and the high pine land and notice the difference in the character of the vegetation. The high pine land is open, the trees are large and vigorous, and the ground is covered with a crop of grass which gives very good grazing for cattle. The vegetation is quick and generous, and the most tender garden plants will grow luxuriantly if properly attended to. These conditions stop abruptly at the edge of the scrub. The boundary between the high pine land and the scrub can be located without trouble within a few feet. . . .

“In the scrub there is a dense growth of scrub oaks and low bushes and plants, all having thick leaves protected to the utmost from loss of water by evaporation, by the property that desert plants have of turning the leaves up edgewise to the sun, to expose as little surface as possible to the direct rays. No grass is found, and only the most hardy desert plants grow. When pines grow it is the dwarf spruce pine and not the long-leaf pine, while on the other hand the spruce pine is not found across the border in the high pine lands proper.

“The full-grown scrub vegetation reaches about the height³ of a man's head. . . . This scrub growth stretches out at this place in an unbroken line for ten or fifteen miles to the northward, and the whole country presents a most desolate appearance. The country is generally rolling in both the high pine land and scrub. There are lakes at which the scrub and the high pine vegetation meet at the water's edge. There is no indication from the topography of the country of any difference in the climate over the two soils. Very few attempts are known to have been made to cultivate the scrub

¹ A Preliminary Report on the Soils of Florida, by Milton Whitney, Chief of Division of Soils. *Bulletin No. 13*, Division of Soils, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, Gov. Printing Office, June, 1898.

lands. A few efforts to grow truck and oranges are known to have been failures. It is generally believed that the scrub is colder at night, and that frosts are liable to occur over these areas when they do not occur over the high pine land. There is no apparent reason for this, however, in the topography of the country."

Professor Whitney finds no chemical or physical difference in the soils which would account for the diverse vegetation, and is driven to the conclusion that "the only explanation for the difference in the character of the vegetation is that it is accidental, and that the one kind of crop or the other received a start and simply spread, the two kinds of vegetation not being capable of growing together." This is an explanation which does not explain, and we are not inclined to accept it as a final word.

ERWIN F. SMITH.

Forests of Wisconsin.¹—Those who are interested in the forestry problems of this country will desire to read this report from cover to cover. It is written by a competent forester. It deals with the past and present forest conditions of the so-called pineries of Wisconsin, *i.e.*, the northern half of the state. It is based on personal explorations and on data furnished by trustworthy lumbermen. To obtain the materials for this report Mr. Roth visited every county in the district, making a careful study of its forest cover. When one considers the infinitude of details involved in such a survey, the wonder is that the author has been able to represent things so clearly. No one can read this report without feeling that the work has been well done, or without wishing that Michigan and other pine-woods states might set on foot similar surveys. Unless something of this kind is done, either by the states or by the general government, we shall never know where we are in the matter of timber supply, or fully realize the necessity of forest care and conservation, until we are brought face to face with a scarcity of timber and all its resultant evils.

This survey shows that of the original 17,000,000 acres of forest in northern Wisconsin, 8,000,000 have been cut over by lumbermen; that 40% of this vast area is practically a desert; and that the remaining 60% is now producing nothing better than firewood. Much of this land is worthless for farming purposes and should be

¹ Forestry Conditions and Interests of Wisconsin. By Filibert Roth, Special Agent, with a discussion by B. E. Fernow, Chief of Division of Forestry. *Bulletin No. 16*, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Division of Forestry. Washington, Gov. Printing Office, 1898. 73 pp., 1 map.